

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 091810
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
SIG-03 /082 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:MCFINROW:RAH
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
-----075608 102337Z /61

O R 102252Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS STATE 091810

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: SELECTED U.S. PRESS COVERAGE CONCERNING PROPOSED
LIFTING OF U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY

FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF PRESS ITEMS RELATING TO ADMINIS-
TRATION'S PROPOSAL TO END U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY:

(A) NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL OF APRIL 9 ENTITLED "TAKING A
CHANCE ON TURKEY" AND (B) WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE OF APRIL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 091810

9 BY JOHN LAWTON ENTITLED "ECEVIT :U.S. INTELLIGENCE SITES
COULD REOPEN IF ARMS BAN ENDS."

(A) QTE: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE TOLD CONGRESS LAST
THURSDAY THAT IF ONLY IT WOULD LIFT ITS RESTRICTIONS ON
SHIPMENTS OF AMERICAN ARMS TO TURKEY, THE TURKS AND TURKISH
CYPRIOTS WOULD PUT FORWARD NEW PROPOSALS FOR A CYPRUS

SETTLEMENT. HE MAY BE RIGHT. BUT THE ISSUE IS NOT WHETHER THERE WILL BE NEW PROPOSALS. RATHER, IT IS WHETHER THE PROPOSALS WILL MOVE TURKISH TROOPS BACK FROM THE 40 PERCENT OF CYPRUS THEY NOW OCCUPY TO A ZONE MORE NEARLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE 18 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND'S POPULATION THAT IS TURKISH. SECRETARY VANCE IS THUS ASKING CONGRESS TO JOIN HIM IN BETTING THAT ONCE THE AMERICAN RESTRICTIONS ARE REMOVED, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE LARGE CONCESSIONS THAT COULD NOT BE

MADE WHILE THE LIMITS REMAIN.

THE BET MAY BE A BAD ONE. IN TURKEY'S POLITICS, NO TIME IS A GOOD TIME FOR CONCEDING TERRITORY TO GREEK CYPRIOTS. AND MR. ECEVIT'S POSITION SEEMS LESS STRONG NOW THAN IT DID WHEN HE RETURNED TO OFFICE LAST JAN. 1. IN PARLIAMENT HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO GOVERN WITHOUT THE VOTES OF ULTRA-NATIONALISTS. BUT IN THE STREETS EXTREMISTS CONTINUE THEIR CAMPAIGNS OF VIOLENT INTIMIDATION THAT HAVE TAKEN MORE THAN 100 LIVES THIS YEAR. THERE IS NO REASON TO THINK THAT MR. ECEVIT HIMSELF DOES NOT WANT TO BE GENEROUS SO AS TO REMOVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM FROM HIS CROWDED AGENDA. BUT IN THE PREVAILING POLITICAL CLIMATE, CONCESSIONS THAT ARE EVEN REMOTELY ACCEPTABLE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE. AND ONCE AMERICAN PRESSURE IS REMOVED, MR. ECEVIT WILL HAVE EVEN LESS REASON TO TAKE POLITICAL RISKS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 091810

SECRETARY VANCE EMPHASIZED THE STRAINS THAT THE LIMITS ON ARMS SHIPMENTS IMPOSE ON TURKISH POLITICS AND TURKEY'S LINKS TO NATO. BUT HE GLOSSED OVER THE COMPARABLE STRAINS ON GREEK POLITICS, AND GREECE'S LINKS TO NATO, IF REMOVAL OF THE RESTRICTIONS IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME ON CYPRUS. GREECE IS NO LESS IMPORTANT TO NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK THAN TURKEY. ANY BARGAIN THAT "SAVES" TURKEY FOR THE ALLIANCE AT THE COST OF LOSING GREECE WOULD BE HOLLOW INDEED. AND IF, AS IS LIKELY, CONGRESS SHOULD REFUSE TO EASE THE LIMITS ON TURKEY, THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRESENT APPROACH RISKS ALIENATING BOTH COUNTRIES.

TURKEY'S SPOKESMEN DECRY WHAT THEY SEE AS AN AMERICAN TILT TOWARD GREECE, AND THEY SAY THAT THEY ONLY WANT AMERICANS TO BE "EVEN-HANDED." YET IN THE PRESENT CYPRUS SITUATION REMOVING THE ARMS LIMITS WOULD AMOUNT TO A TILT TOWARD TURKEY. SO LONG AS ANKARA'S TROOPS REMAIN WHERE THEY ARE ON THE ISLAND, CONGRESS SHOULD RETAIN THE ONLY LEVERAGE IT HAS. UNQTE.

(B) TURKISH PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT, IN AN APPARENT

SOFTENING OF HIS EARLIER PUBLIC STANCE AGAINST REOPENING U.S. BASES IN TURKEY, SAID YESTERDAY THAT IT WOULD BE "NO PROBLEM" TO REACTIVATE THE INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING INSTALLATIONS ONCE CONGRESS LIFTS THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY.

"WE HAVE AGREED WITH THE UNITED STATES THAT AS SOON AS THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED WE SHALL PROMPTLY START WORKING ON A NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR THESE INSTALLATIONS, SO IT WILL BE NO PROBLEM," ECEVIT SAID IN AN INTERVIEW. REOPENING THE BASES, CLOSED BY TURKEY IN 1975 IN RETALIATION TO THE EMBARGO,

WOULD "DEPEND ON SOME SORT OF LEGAL AGREEMENT. BUT I DON'T THINK THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTY IN REACHING SUCH AN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 091810

AGREEMENT," ECEVIT SAID. IN OTHER CONCILIATORY REMARKS, THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD PRESS AHEAD WITH EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS DISPUTE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED OR NOT, AND WOULD NOT PULL TURKEY OUT OF NATO "UNLESS FORCED TO."

HANDING OUT CIGARETTES IN A SILVER CASE GIVEN HIM RECENTLY BY GREEK PREMIER CONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS, ECEVIT SAID HE HOPED THE TWO LEADERS COULD MEET AGAIN SOON TO "SPEED UP SOLUTIONS" TO PROBLEMS BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES. "THE TIME ELEMENT IS IMPORTANT," ECEVIT SAID. "WITH EVERY DAY OF CONTINUING TENSION AND ARMS RACE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE, BOTH COUNTRIES ARE THE LOSERS." HE ARGUED THAT THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO, IMPOSED ON TURKEY FOLLOWING ITS 1974 INVASION OF CYPRUS HAD NOT, AS CONGRESS HAD HOPED, HELPED SOLVE THE CYPRUS DISPUTE AND OTHER DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

"I THINK IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE THAT THE AMERICAN EMBARGO HAS NOT EASED THE SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS BUT HAS RENDERED THEM MORE DIFFICULT," ECEVIT SAID. "NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR TURKEY TO ACT UNDER PRESSURE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE AS LONG AS SUCH PRESSURE CONTINUES THE GREEK CYPRIOTS BELIEVE THEY CAN CONTINUE TO ADOPT AN INTRANSIGENT ATTITUDE," ECEVIT SAID. ADDITIONALLY, HE ARGUED, THE EMBARGO HAD WEAKENED TURKEY MILITARILY AND REDUCED ITS CAPABILITY OF DEFENDING NATO'S SOUTHEAST FLANK ALONG ITS 379-MILE SOVIET BORDER. THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, ECEVIT INSISTED, WAS THEREFORE "AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT FOR OUR ALLIES AS IT IS FOR TURKEY."

ASKED WHETHER TURKEY WOULD PULL OUT OF NATO IF CONGRESS DID NOT APPROVE PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 091810

EMBARGO AND RESUME MILITARY AID, ECEVIT REPLIED: "NATO HAS AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION IN PRESERVING PEACE AND SECURITY --COMPONENTS ON WHICH DETENTE IS BASED. TURKEY HAS A STAKE IN DETENTE, BEING SITUATED IN SUCH A CRITICAL PART OF THE WORLD AND WE WOULDN'T WANT TO LEAVE NATO UNLESS WE WERE FORCED TO." BUT IF ARMS SHIPMENTS WERE NOT RESUMED, ECEVIT SAID, TURKEY "WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO SECURE ITS NATIONAL DEFENSE AND INDEPENDENCE."

SINCE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY ARE INTERRELATED THIS WOULD "NATURALLY MEAN CERTAIN CHANGES IN TURKEY'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS," INCLUDING, ECEVIT SAID, A MORE NEUTRAL ROLE IN WORLD POLITICS. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE EMBARGO

WAS LIFTED, ECEVIT SAID, HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO WORK OUT A "NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE CONCEPT" MAKING IT LESS DEPENDENT ON ITS ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, FOR FUTURE ARMS SUPPLIES. BUT HE INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUDDEN SHIFT IN TURKEY'S PRESENT PRO-WESTERN ALIGNMENT. UNQTE. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS EMBARGO, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE091810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MCFINROW:RAH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-0803
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780473/aaaackft.tel
Line Count: 195
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dc5d20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 THE HAGUE 1978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3017696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SELECTED U.S. PRESS COVERAGE CONCERNING PROPOSED LIFTING OF U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF PRESS ITEMS RELATING TO
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SOPN, TU, CY, GR, US
To: ANKARA ISTANBUL
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc5d20b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014